

### **REMARKS**

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated September 14, 2006 in which the Examiner rejected claims 7, 9 and 10-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103 and objected to claim 18 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner considers the Information Disclosure Statements filed May 11, 2006 and December 21, 2004.

As indicated above, objected to claim 18 has been incorporated into claim 7. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 7, 9 and 10-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

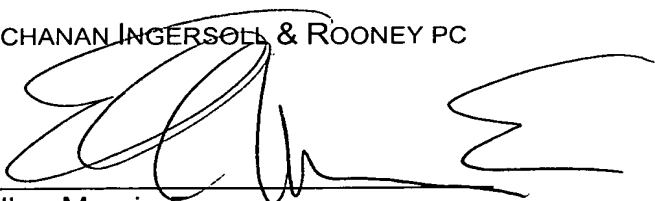
In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge  
our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: December 13, 2006

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